

## Addressing Concerns

### Confidentiality:

Be assured that OSA and GHS will protect patient confidentiality when it comes to the database and reports issued. Their will be limited access to the system and interested parties must register for access.

### The “Chilling Effect”:

OSA will only give reports to the Criminal Justice System if they have a court order on an open case. This program is for prevention and treatment of those affected by illicit use of prescription drugs.

### Data Accuracy:

GHS will be using “Fuzzy Logic” when they compile reports to look for identity theft. This allows them to pull together and compare names that are quite similar like “John Smith” and “Johnny Smith”.

### HIPAA:

Because OSA is a “health oversight agency” under HIPAA and the data being submitted is mandated by legislation pharmacies don’t need to have a patient release form or notify their patients that information is being released (see 45 CFR Section 164.512). However this doesn’t prevent pharmacies from adding text about this release of information to their release of information forms.

## Resources for Questions

**OSA-** the Office of Substance Abuse wants the PMP program to be a benefit to dispensers. OSA can be of assistance to you in responding to your question and concerns as this new program is established.

**Please contact Chris Baumgartner  
OSA’s Program Coordinator with your  
questions or concerns:**

Phone: (207) 287-3363

Email: [chris.baumgartner@maine.gov](mailto:chris.baumgartner@maine.gov)

Web: [www.maineosa.org](http://www.maineosa.org)

### **OSA Information Resource Center**

Phone: (207) 287-8900 or

1-800-499-0027

TTY: (207) 287-4475 or

1-800-215-7604

**GHS-** The contractor, GHS Incorporated is located in Maine and is the database contractor. GHS is also available to answer your questions regarding the data submission and reports.

### **GHS Contact information:**

Phone: (207) 622-7153

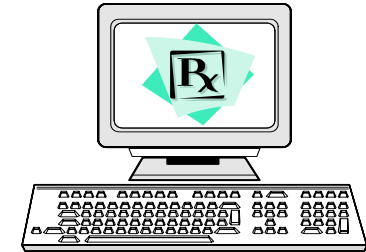
Web: [www.ghsinc.com](http://www.ghsinc.com)

John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



Jack R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

## **Maine's Electronic Prescription Monitoring Program**



### **An Overview for Dispensers**

This Brochure is to inform you of how the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) works and how you as a dispenser can use it to give better care to your customers.



## **Maine Rx Statistics**

- Abuse of prescription drugs has been on a rapid rise since 1997
- Treatment Admissions For Prescription Drug Abuse Have Increased Exponentially From 83 in 1995 to 1148 in 2003
- Overdose deaths increased dramatically through 2002 primarily due to prescription drug abuse
- In 2001 Out of 90 drug deaths, 70 (78%) were caused by a pharmaceutical
- In 2002 Out of 166 drug deaths, 148 (89%) were caused by a pharmaceutical
- More than 20% of High School Seniors have used prescription drugs to get high

## **PMP Overview**

The Office of Substance Abuse (OSA) is the State Agency with oversight of the Prescription Monitoring Program. The purpose of this program is to provide dispensers with information to identify and treat their patient's misuse/abuse of prescription medications.

OSA's contractor, GHS Data Management, Inc., is to collect all of the data and generate reports for Schedule II, III, & IV Drugs. Each Dispenser Pharmacy will send electronic batch files of all their transactions for these drugs to GHS.

Reports will be sent to dispensers when a threshold for a drug has been reached by a patient. Dispensers can also request a report on a patient showing their history with these drugs. Please remember that data collection begins on July, 2004 so no data prior to that date will be available. These reports are free to all prescribers and dispensers, and will be issued within 24 hours of the request.

## **DEA Numbers**

OSA is asking that dispensers and prescribers work hard to get the cleanest data possible especially where the DEA # is concerned. Though GHS will do some data cleaning it is limited in its capacity to do so. Because the DEA # is an integral part of the system in providing information to prescribers, it is especially important that the proper number is recorded in the system. Please help make this system valuable and reliable. The reports will only be as good as the data that is collected.

## **Using Reports**

The Office of Substance Abuse is aware that the Threshold Reports could create tough decisions to make as pharmacies deal with customers who appear on a report.

32 MRSA § 13795 (2) in summary states that a pharmacist may exercise discretion and refuse to fill any prescription or dispense any drug if unsatisfied as to the legitimacy or appropriateness of any prescription presented ... et al.

OSA does not presume to tell dispensing pharmacies what to do when such a report comes in. Pharmacists should use their best professional judgment on each case as it presents itself. Contact prescribers connected to the customer if it seems necessary or could be helpful. The objective is to identify possible problems and give people the treatment and help they need and to curb the illicit use of prescription drugs.